

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis assembly comprising:

a proximal prosthesis having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal prosthesis further having a proximal orifice at the proximal end to be located in and when expanded to be supported by a vascular vessel;

at least one distal prosthesis having a proximal end and a distal end;

the proximal prosthesis having at least two transversely placed tapering portions that extend from an intermediate portion to the distal end of the proximal prosthesis to form a bifurcated prosthesis;

the proximal prosthesis also having at least one distal orifice at the distal end of at least one of the tapering portions which when expanded serves to receive the proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis;

wherein the proximal prosthesis and the at least one distal prosthesis each comprises an expandable stent constructed with a wire skeleton having one or more parts that extends from the respective proximal ends to the respective distal ends;

at least one fabric layer over and/or in the wire skeletons of the expandable stents; and

wherein a cross-sectional area of the at least one distal orifice when expanded is sufficiently less than that of the proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis when expanded within the at least one distal orifice so as to form a seal between the proximal and distal prostheses.

55. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis assembly according to claim 54, wherein the distal end of the proximal prosthesis has a first intermediate portion which is extended to form a distal portion, and a second intermediate portion which has a distal orifice which has a relatively short inclined extension to enable the distal prosthesis to be located therein when the short extension has been expanded, the distal prosthesis having the proximal end which when expanded will form a seal with the short extension.

56. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis assembly according to claim 54, wherein the distal end of the proximal prosthesis has first and second distal portions, the first distal portion having the at least one distal orifice and the second distal portion having another distal orifice for the receipt of the at least one distal prosthesis, each of which will have a stent expandable to a cross-sectional area sufficiently greater than the cross-sectional area(s) of the distal orifices so that effective seals are formed.

57. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis assembly comprising:
a proximal prosthesis having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal prosthesis being expandable and having a proximal orifice at the proximal end;
first and second distal prostheses each having a proximal end and a distal end;
the proximal prosthesis having at least two transversely placed tapering portions that extend from an intermediate portion to the distal end of the proximal prosthesis to form a bifurcated prosthesis;
the proximal prosthesis also having a distal orifice at the distal end of at least one of the tapering portions that when expanded receives at least one proximal end of the first and second distal prostheses;

wherein each of the proximal and distal prostheses comprises an expandable stent constructed with a wire skeleton having one or more parts that extends from the respective proximal ends to the respective distal ends; and

wherein a cross-sectional area of ~~[[the]]~~ at least one distal orifice of the proximal prosthesis when expanded is sufficiently less than ~~the sum of a cross-sectional areas area of~~ ~~[[the]]~~ a proximal end ~~at least one proximal ends~~ of the first or second distal prosthesis when expanded within the at least one distal orifice, so as to form a seal with the at least one distal orifice when the proximal end of the first or second distal prosthesis ~~prostheses are~~ is expanded therein.

58. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis assemble of claim 57, wherein the proximal prosthesis further comprises at least one fabric layer over and/or in the wire skeletons of the stents.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis assembly comprising:

a proximal prosthesis and a pair of distal prostheses each having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal prosthesis being expandable and having the distal end and a proximal orifice at the proximal end, the proximal prosthesis having at least two transversely placed tapering portions that extend from an intermediate portion to the distal end of the proximal prosthesis to form a bifurcated prosthesis, the proximal prosthesis also having at least two distal orifices at the distal ends of the tapering portions which when expanded serve to receive the proximal ends of the pair of distal prostheses, wherein each of the proximal and distal prostheses comprises an expandable stent constructed with a wire skeleton having one or more parts that extends from the respective proximal ends to the respective distal ends and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the wire skeletons of the stents, and wherein ~~[[the]]~~ cross-sectional areas of the at least two of the distal orifices of the proximal

prosthesis when expanded are sufficiently less than ~~the sum of the~~ cross-sectional areas of the proximal ends of ~~each of the pair of~~ distal prostheses when expanded within the distal orifices so as to form a seal with each of the distal orifices when the pair of distal prostheses are expanded therein.

61. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis assembly as claimed in claim 54, wherein a portion of at least one of the proximal prosthesis and the distal prosthesis has a different radiopacity, the portion of different radiopacity facilitating proper alignment of the proximal and distal prostheses.

62. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis assembly as claimed in claim 54, further comprising:

radiographic indicia defined on at least one of the proximal prosthesis and the distal prosthesis and having different radiopacity from the prosthesis, wherein the composite radiographic image of the radiographic indicia varies with the rotational orientation of the prosthesis;

wherein the rotational orientation of the prosthesis in the body lumen is indicated by the radiographic image for optional adjustment of the rotational orientation.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis assembly as claimed in claim 54, the prosthesis assembly being configured for placement at an anatomical bifurcation of a vessel into two branched vessels, the proximal prosthesis defining two lumens, at least one of which is configured to be disposed entirely within said vessel and is adapted to mate with the distal prosthesis configured to extend into one of the two branched vessels.

65. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis assembly as claimed in claim 54, the prosthesis assembly further comprising a male engaging portion having a frustoconical configuration that flares outward on the proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis, and at least one female engaging portion having a frustoconical configuration that tapers inward toward the at least one distal orifice at the distal end of the proximal prosthesis, the male engaging portion being configured to be positioned at least partially within the female engaging portion for inter-engagement between the outer surface of the male engaging portion and the inner surface of the female engaging portion to resist longitudinal movement to prevent separation of the male engaging portion from the female engaging portion, each of the male engaging portion and the female engaging portion comprising a stent with complementary flared and tapered frustoconical wired skeletons.

66. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis assembly as claimed in claim 65, the prosthesis assembly further comprising at least one of the proximal prosthesis and the distal prosthesis having a fabric layer attached to the stent, the fabric layer being configured to be interposed between the male engaging portion and the female portion to form a substantially fluid-tight seal upon assembly.